

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE CADET'S TRAINING WING (CTW) **PROGRAMME**

1. Punjab has traditionally been known as the 'Sword Arm of India'. Historically, all land invasions of the country came from across the North Western Borders and Punjabis have stood firm in repulsing these invaders. Post-independence, the contribution of Punjab in the defence of our country has been enormous. Officers and men from the state have won large number of awards for gallantry, very much in disproportion to the strength of Punjabis in the Armed Forces, but in proportion to the bravery of the Punjabi. In addition, there have been a great many who have received awards for distinguished service in the Armed Forces.
2. Due to the fact that the number of candidates going to National Defence Academy (NDA) and thence into the forces as officers, from the state reduced considerably over the years, the state government established this institute with an aim to train selected candidates for joining the NDA. The institute has lived up to the requirement spelt out by the government and done well for itself in the past 12 years since inception by having 141 of its alumni commissioned into the armed forces and 217 alumni having joined the NDA and equivalent training academies.
3. With time, it has been realised that the expertise and experience available at this institute should be made available to more schools in the state; and, with that in mind, it was decided to set up the 'Cadet's Training Wing' (CTW). Whilst there were some delays in clearances, one officer was appointed as the head of CTW and the programme did start in 2021. However due to the Covid pandemic things came to a grinding halt. Notwithstanding we hope to start our outreach programme with the selected schools in the current academic session, once the approval for the extension of the programme, is received from the Government.
4. The aim of the CTW is to reach out to schools and get volunteer students who are interested to take up a career in the armed forces. Once a student gets enrolled, the additional training program will be managed jointly between the school and this institute.
5. While the academic content would be the sole responsibility of the school, this institute will be able to provide guidance in helping the school to improve physical standards of their students. The aspect of preparing for the Services Selection Board (SSB) will be completely handled by staff from this institute in liaison with the school. The AFPI will also carry out certain special motivational lectures and lectures of general interest for students with an aim to motivate them further. These special events would be open to all students of the partner school if they so desire.

6. With time, we hope to create adequate expertise at each of the enrolled schools so that the school will be able to manage most of the pre-NDA training on its own. With this, we would be able to take additional schools into our ambit thus expanding our reach to more schools of the state. For this experiment to succeed we need to have excellent liaison between the schools and this institute. The schools, on their part, also need to motivate as many boys as possible to join this programme and ensure that the boys attend the special training as prescribed without fail.

7. Whilst the contours of the programme to an extent are vague, these will soon get ironed out as the programme gets underway and we gain experience. This institute is looking forward and is committed to a professionally enriching experience with the schools enrolled and also will ensure that the best of the best are motivated to take up the profession of arms and serve this great nation.

8. Notwithstanding, the lack of approval of extension of the programme beyond the initial one year by the Government, this Institute in the last one year has trained 18 students of the affiliated schools who had cleared their NDA written examinations or were fit to apply for the Technical Entry Scheme (TES) for their SSB. Till date two boys have been selected for NDA, one has joined and one is awaiting the merit list. We aim to increase this strength in time.

9. The following schools are presently nominated for CTW programme: -

- (a) Yadavindra Public School, Patiala
- (b) Yadavindra Public School, Mohali
- (c) Punjab Public School, Nabha
- (d) Doon International School, Mohali
- (e) Army Public School, Beas
- (f) Govt. Senior Secondary School, Patiala
- (g) Govt. Senior Secondary School, Amritsar
- (h) Govt. Meritorious School, Sector 70, Mohali